

REPAIR CAFES SPREADING WORLDWIDE IN 2026 TO REDUCE WASTE BY RECOVERING REPAIR EXPERTISE

October 2026

[The Repair Café International Foundation](#), born in 2010 in [Amsterdam](#) (Netherlands), continues its extraordinary work in the country and worldwide.

Repair Cafés today form a worldwide movement that strives to preserve repair skills in society and to promote more repairable products. Besides the Netherlands, there are today Repair Cafés in Belgium, Germany, France, the United Kingdom, the United States and in dozens of other countries around the world. Repair Cafés have even made its way to India and Japan.

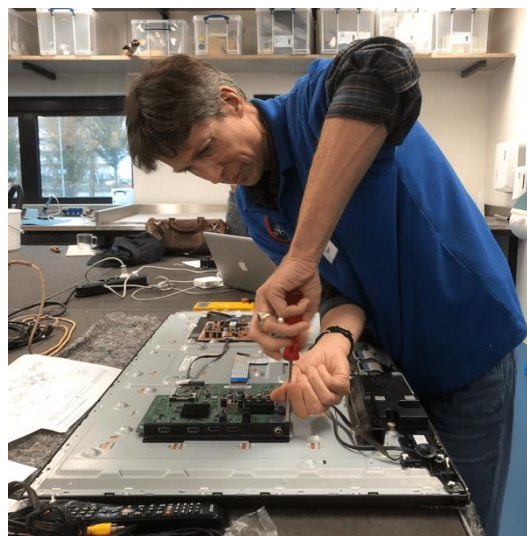


The worldwide movement reports the following data on its impact in 2026: 4.015 Repair Cafés installed and working in 30 different countries; an estimated 60,225 volunteers involved and an estimated 72,270 items repaired per month. At the end of 2025, [the Foundation conducted the fourth global survey of Repair Cafés](#), demonstrating, among other important impact data, that Repair Cafés attract 1.5 million visitors every year.

The first Repair Café was created by the Dutch environmentalist Martine Postma in 2009 in Amsterdam to help reduce waste in the communities, giving new life to used or broken objects. The initiative was so successful that in 2010 Martine Postma launched the [Repair Café Foundation](#), a non-profit organization focused on providing professional support to local groups in the Netherlands and other countries wishing to start their own Repair Café.

[Repair Cafés are free meeting places](#) where visitors bring their broken items from home and, together with volunteer specialists, work on repairing them through an ongoing learning process. In the Repair Café, visitors can find tools and materials to help with any repairs they need on clothes, furniture, electrical devices, bicycles, crockery, gadgets, toys, etc. They also can find expert volunteers, with expertise in repairs in all sectors. Visitors who have nothing to fix can enjoy a cup of tea or coffee or can give a hand to someone else who is repairing.

The Repair Cafés, directly involving citizens, can make an important contribution to reducing the large quantities of waste generated in our societies. Together with many other ecological initiatives based on social participation, they not only contribute to the results of the Zero Waste movements in the various countries, but can also stimulate new policies and guidelines for



large companies to reduce the rapid obsolescence of the products they place on the market.

The Foundation is the engine behind the worldwide success of the Repair Café concept. The Foundation aims to maintain and spread repair expertise, and to promote cohesion by bringing together neighbours from all social backgrounds and with different motivations. The work carried out by the Foundation has managed to promote the creation of a global movement of Repair Cafés around the world.

The Repair Cafés joining the Network are very different, because they are adapted to the contexts in which they operate, but have some important characteristics in common:

- they are social places where people can offer a concrete contribution to solving a global environmental problem. In modern societies we throw away vast amounts of stuff, even things that could get a new lease on life after a simple repair. Things repaired can be used longer, reducing the volume of raw materials and the energy needed to make new products and reducing the CO2 emissions released by the related manufacturing processes. Some Repair Cafés calculate the volume of waste they can recover, avoiding sending it to public landfills, and the benefits they can bring to the environment. In all ongoing experiences, Repair Café helps change people's mindset and generates people's enthusiasm for a more sustainable society.
- They are places designed to recover the knowledge of repairing things. People have forgotten that they can repair things themselves or they no longer know how. Knowledge and skills to make repairs are rapidly lost in our modern societies, especially among the new generations. Volunteer repairers are experts in various fields, such as electricians, mechanics, tailors or carpenters, and offer their help free of charge to people who wish to repair their objects, but who do not know how. Other visitors can participate by watching and learning, but also by helping others. In the Repair Cafés, valuable practical knowledge is passed on, and they show how much fun repairing objects can be, and how easy it often is.

[The website features all the commonly used items that can be repaired](#) and presents for each item, such as [Electric Toothbrushes](#), or [televisions](#), the main features of the repairing work. The website provides all the useful information and offers worldwide support to local groups interested in [building a Repair Café in their community](#), with the requirement that they be associated with the international network.

The Foundation is involved in collecting data about the results achieved by the Repair Cafés. For this purpose, the Foundation developed the [Repair Monitor](#) an online tool which volunteers can use to document what kind of products they repair in their Repair Cafés. The global survey conducted in 2025, demonstrated that Repair Cafés attract 1.5 million visitors every year.

The Repair Café Foundation invites all interested actors to join the Movement to reduce waste in the communities, preserve repair skills in society and promote more repairable products.



To know more

[Repair Cafés website](#)

[Repair Cafés attract 1.5 million visitors every year - Repaircafe](#)

[About Repair Café - Repairing for a Sustainable Future](#)

[News from Repair Cafés Network](#)

[Repair Café International in Facebook.com](#)

[Repair Café in Wikipedia.org](#)

[Article in sustainabilityunscripted.com](#)

[Article in madefor.paris](#)

[Article in nextcity.org](#)

[Article in apnews.com](#)

[Article in fastcompany.com](#)

[Study published in sciencedirect.com](#)

[Article in happyeconews.com](#)

[Article in abc.net.au](#)

[Article in good.is](#)

[Article in consoglobe.com](#)

[Article in reporterre.net](#)

[UNEP Global Waste Management Outlook 2024](#)

[World Bank publication What a waste](#)

[Global Waste statistics in worldmetrics.org](#)

[World waste statistics by country in developmentaid.org](#)



Do you have a talent for fixing things?

Sewing, small appliances, electrics, jewellery, toys & more

Seeking volunteers for our Repair Café on 7 Sept @Eversden Village Hall

